

COLUMBIA TO ERECT NEW MILL

Women's Club Will Begin Year Wednesday, October 5

TO BREAK GROUND SOON

New Blooming Mill Will Increase Company's Growing Payroll Here

TO ROLL HEAVY SHAPES

Statistics Show Amazing Growth of Torrance Plant Since 1923

The Columbia Steel Corporation will break ground in a few weeks for another new mill in Torrance.

This announcement was made last Friday when N. A. Becker, general superintendent and W. L. Booth, manager of the Torrance mills made public plans for a blooming mill on the company's property here.

The new mill will also substantially increase the company's rapidly growing payroll in Torrance.

Speaking to the Rotary Club last week Mr. Becker stated emphatically that the spirit of Torrance, as demonstrated on the occasion of the opening of the sheet mill contributed to no small measure to the corporation's desire to push new developments in this city.

Our employees like Torrance," he said. "They are delighted with the atmosphere of your city and day by day more and more of them are taking up homes here."

Mr. Becker praised the efficient management of the Torrance mills and asserted that this efficiency is due to a loyalty which permeates the whole concern.

Payroll Doubles With the announcement of plans for early construction of the blooming mill, the record of Columbia's progress in Torrance since the local mills were taken over in May 1923 are pertinent.

When Columbia purchased the mills the site comprised 25 acres. It now comprises 54, the company having purchased additional land last year. In May 1923 two 40-ton basic open hearths were in operation, supplying iron for a 22-inch mill rolling billets, angles and structural shapes; a bar mill rolling re-enforcing bars and small angles and a small foundry with a production of about 100 tons of steel casting a month.

By the introduction of new mill system, re-arrangements and changes to more efficient processes this production was immediately increased. Now there are three open hearth furnaces in operation. The foundry is turning out 500 tons of casting a month. The production of the rolling mills has increased tremendously and the sheet mill is rolling about 500 tons a month of blue annealed, black, galvanized and corrugated sheets from 10 to 30 gauge.

What erection of a new mill means to Torrance is indicated by the company's comparative payroll statistics before and after operation of the sheet mill. In Dec. 1926 before the sheet mill was running the company's payroll was \$85,000 a month and 120 men were at work. In Aug. 1927 the payroll was \$167,000 a month and 1925 men were employed.

Open hearths at the plant are producing 500 tons a month. The rolling mill is turning out 5000 tons monthly of re-enforcing bars and light structurals in addition to 2500 tons of sheet bar for the sheet mill. The sheet mill production is about 3,000 tons a month.

To keep the big mills running about 325 cartloads a month being picked from Provo, Utah and other raw materials to Torrance.

THE OWENS VALLEY DISPUTE

The Story of Owens Valley, Its Dealings With the City of Los Angeles and the Dynamiting Attacks Upon the City's Aqueduct

By DON J. KINSEY

(Editor's Note—This is the first of a series of short articles revealing the facts in connection with the Los Angeles-Owens Valley water controversy. These articles are published by the Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light.)

For nearly a century the Owens Valley of California, high and rugged, walled in by mighty mountains, a community yet reminiscent of the days of the pioneers, has been the scene of events constituting an epic chapter in the history of the West.

The Owens Valley has seen the slow and painful march of the covered wagons carrying settlers over a hunger and thirst stricken trail across mountain and desert to the sunset coast. It has witnessed Cal-

ifornia's first felt the tread of white men in 1829, when, it is related, Jedediah Smith and a party of trappers traversed the section. Peter Ogden, a Hudson Bay trapper, visited the valley in 1831 and, in 1833, the renowned Capt. Joe Walker led a party from Independence, Mo., through the Valley to the coast.

The name Owens Valley was bestowed upon this section of California by Gen. John C. Fremont, the "Pathfinder," honoring Richard Owens, one of his scouts. But



View of Mount Whitney, Highest Mountain Peak in the United States. (Inset) General John C. Fremont, Who Named Owens Valley.

normal's bitter Indian war. It has experienced winters so severe whole tribes of native Indians were wiped out. It has watched the coming and going of mining parties, mining camps where its highest hills in the balance against lust for treasure.

Owens Valley has seen the building of one of the world's greatest engineering works, the Los Angeles aqueduct. It has seen the aqueduct seized, attacked, dynamited in warfare waged against Los Angeles by a group of Valley residents.

And now Owens Valley is the scene of a financial cataclysm. Measured in dollars, the recent failure of the five Owens Valley banks probably would make but small impression in large financial centers, but in the valley towns, it is as if it would be in Los Angeles, if such and every one of that city's banks had failed.

Inyo county, which is very sparsely settled except for the Owens Valley section, lays claim not only to historical fame but to topographical note as well. In this county are the highest and the lowest spots in the nation. Mount Whitney, topmost peak of the High Sierras is 14,501 feet in elevation and Death Valley, on the eastern edge of the county, is 272 feet below the level of the sea. Mount Whitney, is crowned with everlasting snows. Death Valley bakes under an ever blazing sun. The Sierras rear their jagged crests

Inyo county was established by act of the California legislature in 1866.

(To Be Continued)

Gymnasium Class for Men Will Be Started at School

The business men of Torrance are interested in the formation of a gymnasium class limited strictly to men. Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings the gymnasium is given over to a class which embraces all lines of games and physical education activities and this class is composed largely of high school boys and young men of college age.

It is now proposed to organize a class for men on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The younger men will not be enrolled on these evenings. A meeting of all men interested in this class has been called for Thursday, Oct. 4, at 7:15 p. m. in the men's wing of the new gymnasium building at the high school. If a sufficient number of men are present the class will start at once.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Hudson of Muncie, Indiana, will arrive Friday to make their home in Torrance.

COLUMBIA BOOSTS CITY

Mills and C. of C. Sell Prominent Leaders on Industrial Importance Here

60 INSPECT TORRANCE

Amazed at Big Steel Output and Santa Fe Factory District Plans

The Columbia Steel Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce Friday drove home to Southern California industrial and commercial leaders the present importance and future potentialities of Torrance as the leading manufacturing center of the great Southwest.

Sixty men, prominent in Los Angeles manufacturing, banking, transportation and business circles were guests here. They lunched at the Columbia plant, inspected the big mills of the corporation, heard the company's plans for the future, and inspected the Santa Fe Railroad Company's industrial district. Many of them had not previously realized the size and large production of the Columbia mills, did not know of the existence here of so many large industries and knew only vaguely about the Santa Fe's program in Torrance. They saw and heard much that Chamber of Commerce officials believe will redound to the vast credit of Torrance in the future.

The visitors assembled at the Columbia Steel corporation's office shortly after noon and went immediately to the sheet mill for lunch, which was served cafeteria style by Barnes Perrott Cafe.

Becker Speaks After lunch, James M. Fitzhugh, sales manager of Columbia presented N. A. Becker, general superintendent of all Columbia plants.

Mr. Becker told the stirring story of the record time made in moving the sheet mill from South San Francisco to Torrance. He lauded the spirit of Southern California, declaring that the "industrial-mindedness" of the Southland and the determination of business men to buy home products guarantees the future of Los Angeles county as a great industrial area.

He told the gathering about the company's vast resources in Provo, Utah and stressed the fact that the west is self-sustaining as far as steel is concerned.

He paid particular attention to the value of the spirit prevailing in Torrance and its effect on the personnel at the Torrance plant, explaining that this spirit is responsible in a great measure for the successful and record production in the Torrance mills.

Mr. Fitzhugh then introduced W. L. Booth, manager of the Torrance plant, who acknowledged with his usual modesty the compliments which had been paid the local plant and men for their efficient production of steel.

Lacey Lauds Columbia William Lacey, former president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Los Angeles Chamber's manufacturing and industrial committee, and one of the pioneer manufacturers of Los Angeles then spoke.

He added the weight of his endorsement to Mr. Becker's belief that "industrial-mindedness" and home patriotism and co-operation among all Southern California elements guarantees industrial progress in the Southland. He praised the development of Columbia and pointed to it as evidence of what can be done in basic industries in this part of the state. He declared that by proper co-operation for the further development of home markets industrial Southern California will progress by leaps and bounds. This co-operation he said is necessary not only among jobbers and fabricators but among all interests.

See Santa Fe Tract After the address the assembly divided into groups which were conducted through Columbia's mills. Thereafter they were guided over the Santa Fe's industrial district where Tom Conway, Santa Fe industrial agent, explained the company's development in detail.

Observations

Stocks Are Shaky—Farm Aid and Money Fear—What Is Prosperity?—France and the War Guilt—The Champion Wife Is Dead

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

THE stock market is nervous. Industrial stocks are weakening. For months listed securities of all kinds have felt a steady upward trend. The end seems near. One of the reasons for the attack of nerves is the fact that nature has promised little relief to farmers through the benign medium of a large crop salable at high prices. Another is the approach of an uncertain Presidential election.

The farmers of the Mississippi Valley are strapped. They have been in that condition for several years. And when such a large number of our citizens are suffering in an economic strait-jacket a vast market for all sorts of goods is affected adversely. The United States cannot swim in the sunlit pool of prosperity when half of it is immersed in the icy waters of want. The biggest issue before the country right now is farm relief. That doesn't mean the McNary-Haugen type of help either.

Arbitrary price fixing never works. It always does more harm than good. But certainly our wise legislators who always seem to find means of helping industry can prescribe an economically sound remedy for the ills which assail the country's growers.

The very fact that the farmers are getting financially no better fast worries the captains of finance. Election of a radical congress might guarantee passage of farm relief legislation unsatisfactory to big money. And money is not quite sure but what next year's elections may give the farm bloc enough new adherents to push the program through. Financiers aren't worrying half as much over the Presidency as over Congress. They can handle the Presidency business at the conventions, but the farmer's voice is not so easy to reach.

The strange thing is that Eastern money circles are worried at all. Legislation which would help the farmer, according to even reasonably sound from the economic standpoint, would eventually work to the benefit of the whole country. Business proceeds in circles. So does money. When farmers are prosperous, manufacturers are busy, banks show strong statements, workers have employment. Yet the East—as we noticed during a three-months stay in New England—is to blame with regard to the nation for something, officially to blame for the condition of American farmers. It appears that Eastern financiers will do well to strengthen their economies as readily as they strengthen theirs.

AND after all what is prosperity? For your financial satisfaction, the degree of the well-being of the average citizen, a man who feels secure, whose income is sufficient to his needs as well as to consider conditions just right? For him they are. But while it is safe and out of financial danger his fellows may be suffering untold worries and privations. Prosperity is relative.

We are inclined to the view that most Americans thinking of prosperity cast their memories back to those wild, busy days immediately after the war. That sort of prosperity will never come again, at least not until the next post-war period. To the world's merchants, persons who think of these days as a golden age, it is a disappointment as well. Conditions then were abnormal, just as they were abnormal during the period of reaction. Just now the country—and the world in even a greater degree—is in a state of economic flux. Prices are still high. It will take years to finish the leveling off process, bringing wages and prices gradually downward, making the one compatible with the other. We are still convalescing from the big catastrophe. Mentally we should be grateful that we live in the United States where Nature's law guarantees all of us a living. We in America do not know what hard times are. And we of the Pacific Coast know less about the pinch of the money shoe than New Englanders. Times are not flush. Neither are they really bad. Don't expect post-war prosperity. And don't expect conditions to get worse. They are getting better, slowly, but certainly.

FANATICS put a bomb on the tracks over which a special train of American Legionnaires was soon to pass on its way from Paris to Lyon. Fortunately the tracks which it too up were discovered before the train reached the spot. Despite differences of opinion about the French debt to the United States, we must praise the French people for the acts of a few fanatics. The French people generally hold the American veterans in high regard. They will appreciate the dashingly prompt to kill Americans by blowing up the railroad track as much as we do. It is too bad that every country must number some wild-eyed trouble-makers among its citizens.

LOUIS BARTHOU, French minister of justice has answered in bitter words the statement of President Woodrow Wilson of Germany that the war was not started in Potsdam.

M. Barthou declared point-blank that Germany owes all the guilt. Mr. Barthou errs—and probably knows it. The public declarations of all statesmen must necessarily be tinged with politics for home consumption. In order to keep public opinion crystallized against Germany French politicians must continue to blame Germany for starting the war. Else the French people—always a bit penurious—might rebel against the vast appropriations France is now making in order to maintain the world's most powerful military force and to construct the largest fleet of submarines in the world. At the same time—from the standpoint of politics—it is essential that the French belief in the guilt of Germany be kept alive, so that public opinion will back the politicians in their unrelenting campaign for cancellation of the French debts to us. Destroy the Gaelic faith in the fact that they were leaped upon by the Huns who fought an aggressive war to crush all Europe and the French foreign and domestic policies might suffer untold injuries at the hands of a rash and impulsive people.

Even more so than in the United States, statements of European politicians must be taken with a good pinch of salt.

A WOMAN in Bouvier, Mississippi, who had been married eight times, has passed away at the age of 77.

We submit that this lady should go down as of heroic mold. Any woman, blonde or brunette, clinging vine or Amazon, who can overcome the handicaps of living with eight different men deserves a prominent place in the Hall of Fame. She was a glutton for punishment. We can conceive of no woman who could muster up the courage to wed eight women one after another. A noteworthy fact in connection with the remarkable career of this champion wife is the fact that she outlived seven of her husbands. Whether the stalwart qualities which enabled her to do that also tended to drive her successive husbands toward the shadow of the tomb we are not going to hazard an opinion. Oh, well—the path of glory leads but to the grave. The question in our minds—after a solo second thought—is whether the woman who lived with eight husbands or the eight husbands who lived with this woman deserve the most credit.

LUNCHEON TO OPEN SEASON

Mrs. Willis Brooks, President Tells Aims in Letter to Members

COMMITTEES ARE NAMED

Program for Year Will Be Carried on Through Many Chairmen

The first Women's Club meeting of the year will be held Wednesday, Oct. 5, preceded by a luncheon at 12:30. The program will be devoted entirely to music under the supervision of Mrs. Theresa Murray, music chairman, who promises a pleasant surprise.

Reservations for the luncheon should be made with Mrs. W. H. Gilbert, phone 231-W, not later than 6 p. m. Monday. Members who did not bring Gilbert in what they have been told that the year will be well paid over next year, get out their agendas. The most important of this luncheon will be to elect officers.

In a letter to club members, the president, Mrs. Willis M. Brooks, said in part: "As I review the activities of the club in the six years of its existence I realize how little I have done, and I realize how little those who have aided me in the past have done. I have a vision of a club and it has strengthened my own resolve to give as they have given, to be unobtrusive and just in all my dealings and to promote for our club that spirit of harmony, love and mutual understanding, without which no club can progress. Lillian said 'And having chosen our course, let us now give our best' to God, and go forward without fear and with strong hearts.' It is with this spirit that your board will begin the new year, relying upon your loyal support."

The board personnel follows: president, Mrs. Willis M. Brooks; first vice president, program chairman, Mrs. Roy Arundel; second vice president, membership chairman, Mrs. J. E. West; third vice president, house chairman, Mrs. Harum Reeve; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. W. Huddleston; federation secretary, Mrs. Joe Stone; recording secretary, Mrs. W. J. Neelands; treasurer, Mrs. P. G. Briney; auditor, Mrs. Sam Lappaport; directors and chairmen of ways and means, child welfare and junior membership, respectively, Mrs. Fred Hansen, Mrs. Archie Lewis and Mrs. W. H. Gilbert; parliamentary, Mrs. F. L. Parks.

Standing committees as announced by the president are: flowers, Mrs. J. A. Merriam; Mrs. C. E. Chambers, Mrs. Brooks; decorations, Mrs. Ruth G. Perry; Mrs. Lillian Moulton; hospitality, Mrs. George W. Neill; Mrs. George P. Shiller; Mrs. Maud Locke; Mrs. Clara Curtis; card committee, Mrs. L. B. Kelsey, assisted by various committees; teas, Mrs. Frank Weiss, Mrs. John Sullivan; ways and means, Mrs. Fred Hansen, Mrs. George Haneschka assisted by the following monthly chairmen, Mrs. F. L. Parks, Mrs. W. H. Gilbert, Mrs. A. W. Meinzer, Mrs. H. A. Treadwell, Mrs. J. E. West, Mrs. R. A. Huber, Mrs. Guy Mowry, Mrs. Orville Hudson, Mrs. Caroline Collins; luncheons, Mrs. W. H. Gilbert.

The work of the various departments will be carried on under the direction of the following chairmen: American home, Mrs. William Bushart; art, Mrs. J. C. Merriam; business and protective law, Mrs. E. M. Kingsley; California history and land marks, Mrs. O. E. Fossum; child welfare, Mrs. Archie Lewis; Mrs. L. B. Kelsey, Mrs. W. C. Lohr; community service, Mrs. Isabel T. Henderson; co-operation with war veterans, Mrs. Caroline S. Collins; conservation, Mrs. V. L. Tracy; drama, Mrs. B. C. Baxter; education extension, Mrs. Joe Stone; home garden, Mrs. J. M. Allen; home garden, Mrs. Nettie Stambler; international relations, Mrs. Jessie B. Smith; music, Mrs. Theresa Murray; M. L. Park; publication, Mrs. Fred M. Huddleston.

WEEK'S WORLD NEWS. Premier Mussolini of Italy is the proud father of a fourth son. It Duca told newspaper men that Romano—the new son—should not be called the fourth child, but "the first of a new series." The mother are child are well. The baby is said to look like his illustrious papa. It was a moonlight night in Cleveland. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mack hopped into their car for a spin. The moon wove its spell over them. Mr. Mack pulled up to the side of the road, stole his arm around his wife's waist. They kissed. The arm of the law intervened. They were arrested for spooning on a public highway. A jury of six men and six women acquitted them. The Mack couple had not been married long. Most everybody has read "The Spoilers," by Rex Beach and "The Virginian" by Owen Wister. The chief character in each of these books was taken from Frank M. Canton, picturesque figure of the old West. Mr. Canton died in Oklahoma City at the age of 76. Mayor Walker of New York is a dapper politician. He wears spats and carries a stick. He is just back from a trip to Europe. In Rome it was that in response to an address of welcome at a luncheon he told his Italian hosts that "this is the best luncheon I ever drank." Bennett Doty, a young American adventurer joined the Foreign Legion, served on the Syrian desert, deserted. He was arrested, sentenced to die. Under pressure from the American State Department his sentence was commuted. The American Legion held its convention in Paris. Good will speeches were made. Prominent Legionnaires interceded for young Doty. France set him free. He is coming home with the Legion. In the corn belt every county fair has its hog-calling contest. Down south in Virginia they have instituted a new wrinkle. At the county fair of Suffolk they will hold a husband calling contest. Comely Southern belles will cajole eligible bachelors in endearing terms. The maid whose entreaties are the most fervent will win a prize—possibly a husband. Rep. Tibson, Republican floor leader of Congress returned to Washington from a trip along the Colorado River. He urged upon President Coolidge the urgent necessity of Colorado River flood and dam legislation. The President had nothing to say publicly. The League of Nations Eighth Assembly is over. European diplomats talked, accomplished little. Germany and France and Poland urged disarmament and treaties outlawing war. Great Britain, whip of the League demurred. Echoes of the Tunney-Dempsey championship boxing contest in Chicago. Mr. Dempsey declares he was cheated out of a decision when the referee favored Mr. Tunney with a count of fourteen when the champion was prone on the canvas. Mr. Tex Rickard, promoter extraordinary went on record as willing to stage another encounter between Jack and Gene. Eastern sport writers snifted disdainfully. Babe Ruth hits home runs aplenty. He has many namesakes. One is a hen. She is owned by A. R. Lander of Norfolk, Neb. She has laid an egg every day for 151 days. She is a white leghorn—well named. William Gibbs McAdoo says that prohibition will be the issue in the 1928 Presidential campaign. A tidal wave and typhoon swept the coast of China, 150 miles south of Hongkong, killing 5,000 persons. The catastrophe was announced under small headlines in American dailies. Many sufferers took hope. Dr. Douglas Symmers, director of laboratories of Bellevue Hospital, New York, announced a new and promising method of treating erysipelas by means of specific anti-toxin. Cures, he said, have been effected in 85 per cent of the cases treated. Gauna Walska thought she could sing. So did her new husband. (Continued on Last Page) A real plan service. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

BILL THE BARBER SAYS THE GOOD THING ABOUT RADIO IS THAT YOU CAN SHUT IT OFF.